

From: Bud (038) Lyn
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 5:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Ms. Hesse:

After perusing information provided the public regarding the Microsoft Settlement, and not being a "Wall Street Attorney", I wish to encourage the Court to be equitable and fair in its ultimate decision regarding the Microsoft case.

The Pacific Northwest, after September 11, has been feeling a domino effect from the tragedy that occurred in New York City. Our local NYSE and NSDQ stocks have suffered great losses, from which many will never recover. Granted, we are all in the same situation, but the State of Washington, on a daily basis, is losing high tech companies - just folding up, or consolidating out of state. Our unemployment rates are climbing rapidly with the loss of Boeing jobs, and frankly, the future for the State of Washington looks bleak.

A blow to Microsoft would simply add to the recession our state and country is finding itself in. As a citizen of the United States, I do not wish to see more businesses punished to the point of extinction. Mr. Gates has done, and will do wonderful things for education, world peace, and the welfare of children, worldwide, if given the opportunity under our free enterprise system. He has stepped down from a very lofty and important position in his company to cooperate in this matter. My greatest fear is that he will lose interest in the company he started, and not have an interest in promoting new and innovative ideas that will benefit everyone, worldwide. The states involved in this lawsuit are stamping their feet like children, refusing to be reasonable for the sake of everyone, to prove that they are mightier than Microsoft, its management, and Mr. Gates. These states and the rest of our United States will end up the losers. We all need to cooperate to reinstate a healthy economy, where business can thrive, thus allowing us to deal with important issues facing us in the future. That future is now in jeopardy, and I wish to urge those who are charged with the decision in the Microsoft case, to take more than just the law into account. Real human beings, with families, mortgages to pay, children to educate, retirement to plan for, and a job to take pride in, is at stake. This is not a chess game, but real life, and I pray that you will do what is right for all, not just a few

Thank you for listening to a citizen's opinion.

Best Regards,

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